THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

THIRD ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION—1944/1120.

Thursday the 17th August 1944 | 2nd Chingom 1120.

The Assembly met in the Legislative Chamber at 12 noon with Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., LL. D., Dewan-President, in the Chair.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following members took the oath and signed the Rolls:—

1. Mr. K G. Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*).
2. Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Additional Secretary to Government and Director of Food Supplies.*)
3. Mr. S. Narayana Aiyar (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*).
4. Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai (*Chief Secretary to Government*).
5. Mr. L. Sankaranarayana Pillai (*State Rationing and Food Purchase Officer.*)

MESSAGES.

PRESIDENT: Under standing order No. 60, I have to make certain communications on behalf of Government to this honourable House. The first of those communications is that of a message from His Highness the Maharaja which we shall receive standing.

> "I beg to inform you that I have laid before His Highness the Maharaja the motion of condolence, passed at the Joint Session of the Sri Chitra State Council and the Sri Mulam Assembly at 12 noon on Monday, the 14th August in connection with the demise of His Highness the late First Prince Avittam Tirunal, and I am commanded by His Highness to convey to the Travancore Legislature, through you, His Highness's sincere thanks on behalf of himself and the members of the Royal family."

The second is a communication that Government have approved the election of Rajyasevanirata S. Chattanatha Karayalar as the Deputy President.

The third is a communication, which has advertence to a number of questions that may or can be asked and resolutions that can be moved. It has been decided by the Government of India that on account of the present war situation information regarding certain matters, information relating to certain banking accounts, cannot be

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made available to the public. The rule that has been passed by the Government of India is as follows:—

"Restriction of publication of information relating to certain undertakings:

(1) This rule applies to any of the following undertakings carried on in India by any person or authority whatsoever (including Government).

(i) Undertakings for the supply of electricity,

(ii) Inland water transport undertakings,

(iii) Port, harbour dock or pier undertakings.

(2) No person shall publish, or cause or allow to be published in Travancore the accounts, or any copy thereof or extract therefrom, of any undertaking to which this rule applies, or any report or other document or any copy thereof or extract therefrom, relating to the operation of the undertaking which discloses any information contained in any such accounts or any statistical or other information relating to the progress of the undertaking.

(3) Nothing in sub-rule (2) shall, unless the Government by general or special order otherwise directs, be deemed:

(a) to relieve any person carrying on an undertaking to which this rule applies from any obligation to furnish to Government or to any Government authority such accounts, reports or documents, or copies thereof, or extracts therefrom;

(b) to prohibit the publication of such accounts, reports or documents or copies thereof or extracts therefrom to:—

(i) Government (ii) any Government or local authority (iii) the members of a local authority where the undertaking is carried on by the local authority, (iv) the directors or managing agents of a company where the undertaking is carried on by the company, (v) the auditors of the accounts of the undertaking, (vi) such other persons, or in such circumstances, as may be authorised by the Government;

(c) to apply to the publication by or on behalf of any person carrying on an inland water transport undertaking of any time table relating to such undertaking;

(d) to prohibit inspection of such accounts, reports or documents, or copies thereof, or extracts therefrom, at the offices of the undertaking by any person who but for this rule would have been entitled to obtain, receive or inspect such accounts, reports or documents, or to receive information as to the contents thereof, and who shall have given to the undertaking not less than 7 days' prior notice in writing of his desire to inspect the same.

(4) Where publication is made under the provisions of sub-rule (3) to the members of a local authority or to the directors or managing agents of a company, such publication shall only be made if the accounts, reports or documents are clearly marked with a statement that they are confidential and not to be published to any person other than another member of the local authority or another director or a member of the managing agents of the company, as the case may be."

This arises in two ways. A certain number of documents has been placed at the disposal of the honourable members although they are confidential and come within the purview of this notification. That is done because Government have thought it right to take the Legislature completely into confidence. The Government of India have enacted this rule and they have asked this Government to enact it here also. That was only two weeks back. Following the exampl

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of the Government of England they are trying to keep the information away from those who may make use of it to their disadvantage at this juncture. That point should be borne in mind by honourable members in relation to their questions and resolutions.

There is another matter in respect of which I wish to make a communication to the honourable House. This communication arises out of a certain number of questions that are on the order paper to-day and a number of other questions that have been given notice of and which may have to be dealt with. I have thought it right to express the views of the Government publicly before the House, in order that the blame, if any, should rest upon the Government themselves who are responsible for the policy and not upon subordinate officers of the Government. It was the idea of the Government that if that policy has to be criticised the Government have to be criticised and I therefore make the statement. These allegations relate to elections and deal with alleged interference with the recent elections to the Legislature. In regard to that matter Government have already published their instructions prohibiting the interference directly or indirectly by Government officers. But there are one or two points that have to be made perfectly clear. The Government of Travancore came to the conclusion and have not departed from that conclusion that the disturbances that took place in the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 were largely due to the propaganda carried on by the Travancore State Congress. The Travancore State Congress was regarded as to no small extent responsible for those acts of violence, arson and disturbances. They have beyond generally denying their participation in violence and relying upon Mahatma Gandhi's doctrine of non-violence, not taken any other steps to repudiate their responsibility. Let it be understood that in the remarks that I am making I am confining them solely and exclusively to the Travancore State Congress. I am not making any observations on the policy of the Indian National Congress or on the leadership of any of the protagonists of that Congress. Suffice it to say that Mahatma Gandhi has himself recently given a striking example of what he means by his doctrine of non-violence. When he was detained in 1942 there was an impression in some quarters that there was no violence which was participated in by any member of the Indian National Congress. After he came out of detention he realised that men belonging to or calling themselves members of the Indian National Congress were guilty of violence and sabotage. Realising that, he asked those people who had gone underground directly to give themselves up for imprisonment and confess their guilt. Therefore any remarks that I have to make have no reference to the policy of the Indian National Congress. The Travancore Government, there is no doubt are still of the impression that the Travancore State Congress under its present leadership is trying to ally itself with the students movement and labour movement for the purpose of subversive activities. Feeling like that the Government have not made a secret of their opinion regarding the State Congress activities. But side by side with that opinion they made it clear that if and so far

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as there is a body of opinion in the country representd by the Travancore State Congress that body of opinion should be represented on the floor of this House. The Government took great care to see that both these aspects should be made perfectly clear to the public and to the officers. I wanted to make it clear because if as is quite possible, more than probable, honourable members wish to attack Government for that policy or for that conviction, and want to persuade Government that they are wrong the right and proper target of attack is the Government and not the subordinate officers.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pathanapuram cum Shencotta*): Sir, with your kind permission I wish to speak a few words. You have just now announced the approval of Government of my election as Deputy President of this House. I am deeply sensible of the honour done to me by the House by electing me as its Deputy-President. I am extremely thankful to the honourable members of this House for the honour. Sir, I have had the inestimable advantage of working as Deputy- President for over six years under your inspiration and guidance, and I wish to acknowledge my deep indebtedness to you for the in-valuable assistance I have received at your hands which has been of the utmost value to me in the discharge of my duties in the past. I am sure that this has been fully recognised by the House in the election of myself as its Deputy President for the second time.

Let me take this opportunity to give my assurance to this House that it will be my constant endeavour to uphold the dignity of the office to which I have been elected and to maintain the best traditions of the House and in this endeavour of mine, I trust I shall have the full and willing co-operation of all sections of the House.

Before concluding, let me tell the House that it is not my intention to appropriate to myself the salary I shall be drawing as Deputy-President. I propose to give it away for a public purpose, a public charity. The cause of the poor has always been very dear to my heart and I have therefore, decided to give away my salary to the Vanchi Poor Fund whose work has impressed me very deeply in the past. I thank all the honourable members of the House.

PRESIDENT: I am sure the honourable House will reciprocate the sentiments expressed by the honourable member.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Agricultural farm near Perurkada.

1. * **MR. K. A. MATHEW** (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open an agricultural farm near Perurkada in Chettivilakam pakuthi, Trivandrum taluk;

(b) what is the kind of farm that is proposed – experimental, demonstration or any other kind;

(c) what are the crops that are proposed to be cultivated there;

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